



June 2017

Dear Family Campers,

Welcome to Smoky Mountains Family Camp! Summer in Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a magical time. Deep green forests, sparkling rivers, and the songs of birds are your daily companions. It is a wonderful time of year to come to the Smokies! We are planning many exciting activities for this wonderful week. All will be designed to give your family the opportunity to spend some easy-going time together. We are hard at work training our new summer staff and developing the activities for your upcoming adventure.

**Arrival:** Plan to arrive at Tremont on Monday, July 10 between 3:00 and 5:00pm. This will give you opportunity to get moved into the dorm and to meet other families. The program will begin at the 5:45pm evening meal.

**Departure:** The program will end after morning activities on Saturday, July 15. Most of these activities will conclude around lunchtime. A sack lunch will be provided.

**Activities:** If you came last year expect some **new** activities as well as old favorites. We're putting together these programs right now, and a final schedule will be available upon arrival. Whether you like to hike, search for critters, or simply sit around the campfire, there is plenty to do. In order to get a sense of the activities offered at Smoky Mountain Family Camp, take a look at the 2016 schedule posted on our website: <http://gsmit.org/event/family-camp/>

On Wednesday, July 12 there is an opportunity for an early morning bicycle ride in Cades Cove. We highly recommend that you **bring bicycles (and helmets!)** if you want to participate. A limited number of bicycles will be available at a park concession for rent for a small fee. However, these are first-come first-serve, so there's no guarantee.

Like last year, there will also be an opportunity to go on a one-night backpack trip. If you own your own equipment (backpack, sleeping bag, tent, etc.) please bring it. No worries if you don't – we have plenty for you to use! *Please understand that we are limited by federal regulations regarding how many people can participate. Sign-ups will occur via the lottery system following our first meal together on Monday. Names will be announced the following morning.*

You may want to bring a USB flash drive to download photos from fellow participants.

**Themed Meals:** One of our traditions is having several meals with a particular theme. Here are the themes, in case you wish to bring an item or two from home

to wear or otherwise prepare yourself. You may interpret these however you wish! The themed meals are: **Ninja, Pet Rock, Open Mic (sharing poetry, song, or journal entry), and Walker Valley History (19<sup>th</sup> century).**

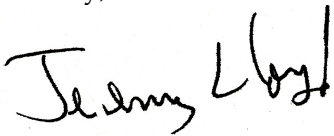
**Weather:** The average daily high this time of year at Tremont is around 87° F, and the average daily low is approximately 64° F. Come prepared for cool early mornings and cooler temps during our high country explorations. Rain gear is always necessary here in the Smoky Mountains! Please bring it. We have some wonderful swimming holes in the river, so **bring your swimsuit and water shoes** if you'd like to take advantage of them.

**Logistics:** Please download and read "Your Visit to Tremont." This includes important packing information. Along with linens and toiletries you may want to bring a mattress pad to ease the firm mattress. You also may want to consider bringing an alarm clock, binoculars, notepad and pencil, field guides, camera, and a garbage bag for storing wet clothes. Rain gear and a hat are also important for your comfort. We have several platform tents available on a first-come first-serve basis. Should you choose to stay in a tent rather than the dorm, please inform us of your preference in advance if you have not already done so. We recommended that you bring a battery-powered lantern and alarm clock.

**Health/Waiver Form:** Please fill out the Health/Waiver Form and bring it with you to turn in upon check-in. If you have special needs, dietary (go to <http://www.gsmit.org/Food.html> for more specifics), medical, or otherwise, please send in your form ahead of time. It will be challenging to accommodate special dietary needs if they are not communicated to us in advance. This form must be filled out and turned in to us for you to participate in the program. Please note that food is not allowed in the dormitory or in our tents.

I hope that this information is helpful to you in planning for your upcoming visit to Tremont. If you have further questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Lloyd  
Special Program Coordinator

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